1: Longrigg G-4, 5 (ca. 1915-1940) MH1 Iraq MH1

I

THE 'IRAQ OF 1900

1. THE THREE WILAYAS

'To the lover, Baghdad is not far off', 'A (false) account will come back even from Baghdad'; by these and suchlike proverbs the Turk of Istanbul, half a century ago, confessed the remoteness of the sunbaked lands of Tigris and Euphrates. The three wilayas (vilayets) one day to become the 'Iraq Kingdom lay indeed upon the very borderland of Turkish possessions. At no time inhabited by Turks, they belonged rather to the northern extension of the Arabian peninsula, and formed the eastern half of its Fertile Crescent. The country had in older days formed the 'Abbasid province of 'Iraq 'Arabi and part of Jazira. In the first three centuries of Turkish rule it had been united as the single eyalet of Baghdad, one of the great provinces of the Empire ruled by a three-tailed Pasha. Thanks to its ancient fame, its strategic position and present scale, Baghdad had always held easy primacy over the two other renowned cities of 'Iraq, Mosul and Baṣra; and even in 1900, after Mosul had emerged finally as a wilaya in 1879 and Baṣra in 1884, the Wali of Baghdad was by every standard the senior of the three governors.

The tripartite territory was bounded on the north, amid wild mountains, by the Hakkari sanjaq of Van wilaya: on the north-west, by a short face of the Jazira-ibn-'Umar qaḍhā of Diyarbakr wilaya: on the west, by the newly created 'independent' sanjaq of Dayr ẓ-Zur. Farther south the boundary lay at the mid-desert frontier of the wilaya of Damascus and, south again, crossed the deserts of north Arabia, beyond which lay the Arab oasis principalities. To the south also lay the waters of the Persian Gulf and, along its western shores, a stretch of maritime Arabia which was claimed as Turkish and grouped officially under the Baṣra wilaya. To the east, bordering all three provinces, lay Persia.

These boundaries were those of modern 'Iraq save in three particulars. The Persian frontier was still undemarcated; the line observed or flouted in 1900 was in places to be amended by the Commission of 1914. The boundary with the Turkish provinces of Van and Diyarbakr was to be fixed in 1926, that with later Syria in 1920 and 1933, that with the Arabian rulers in 1922. The territories of al-Aḥsā, Qaṭar, and Kuwayt ceased to be Turkish before or during the First World War, and do not concern the historian of 'Iraq.

3: Clark S-5 (1950)1951 MH1 Iraq MH1

CHAPTER ONE

THE BACKGROUND

THE COUNTRY AND THE PEOPLE

An appreciation of the present state of education in Iraq and the possibility of advance towards the goal of compulsory education is not possible without some reference to the history and present circumstances of the country.

Following centuries during which a brilliant civilization flourished, particularly during the Abbasid period, the country remained under Ottoman domination from the middle of the sixteenth century until the first world war. British interest in the port of Basra and the development of the oilfields caused the people to fear a continuance of alien domination but, after an uneasy mandate, the country now known as Iraq emerged in 1932 as an independent nation with membership of the League of Nations. The long period of Ottoman domination with an administration centred in a distant capital left its mark. Administrative reforms and some social advance were attempted during the period of the mandate. When, however, Iraq became an independent State its Government was faced with a legacy of ignorance, poverty and disease among all but a very small minority of the population. Attempts have been made by successive Governments to liquidate the effects of this legacy and, in certain directions, rapid and significant progress has been made. But economic, social and political problems of great magnitude remain, all of which have their effect on educational progress or retardation.

Under its constitution the country enjoys a democratic form of government with a limited monarchy and a cabinet responsible to parliament. Despite the rapid educational advance of recent years, the majority of the people are illiterate, and effective participation in the government of the country must inevitably be confined to a few.

Iraq covers some 175,000 square miles, mainly of alluvial plain stretching from the Persian Gulf through the central uplands to the mountains of Turkish Kurdistan and from the Arabian and Syrian deserts to Persia. Apart from the four principal towns of Baghdad, Basra, Mosul and Kirkuk, together with a number of

6:Ireland S-5 (no date)1937 MHl Iraq MHl

notables went there on pilgrimage. Later, at a tribal gathering at Shumali, the leading shaikhs between Shināfīya and Hilla unanimously determined to follow the lead of Yūsuf as-Sūwaidī and Saiyid Muhammad as-Sadr. As a result of incitement from Baghdad, the Holy Cities and Syria, the tribes and towns became increasingly restless. A train was derailed above Baghdad in late May, and others below Hilla in early June. Petty crimes increased at an alarming rate. Arabs in government service began to resign. The collection of revenue on winter crops became more and more difficult. In Shatra, in the Muntafiq, it had already been intimated to Captain Mead, the Assistant Political Officer, on May 17th, that should he persist in carrying out chain or rope measurement of crops, he would be forcibly resisted.[1] The arrest of six agitators at Hilla[2] relaxed the tension there, but the arrest and deportation to Henjam[3] of Mirza Muhammad Ridhā and nine others at Karbalā on June 22nd added to the perilousness of the situation on the middle Euphrates. The arrest of Hajjī Muklūf, the principal agitator in Dīwānīya, did nothing to check the rising there. Signs of incipient unrest were manifest everywhere and a lapse into former lawlessness and anarchy seemed imminent. It was clear that only a spark would be needed to send off the train of insurrection.

[1] *Admin. Report, Muntafiq*, 1920, pp. 2-3. This method of crop assessment, introduced by the Turks, is described in detail in *Revenue Report*, 1917, p. 18. As late as 1929, rope measurement was employed in the Muntafiq and elsewhere in 'Iraq as a normal method of crop assessment: *Report of Revenue Department*, 1928-1929, pp. 11-13; also App. O. But cf. Wilson, op. cit., p. 282.

[2] Telegram No. 7289, Civil Commissioner, Baghdad, to P.O. Hilla, June 16th, 1920.

[3] According to the official *Gazetteer of the Persian Gulf*, p. 629 ff., Henjam is a small, rocky and dismal island in the Persian Gulf not far from the Clarence Straits. Its climate in summer is 'barely tolerable', the heat being terrific and aggravated by moisture, sandflies and other insects.

7: International Bank N, S-4 (1951) 1952 MH1 Iraq MH1

I. Introduction

Iraq possesses impressive potentialities for economic development. With a total population of about 5,000,000 and an area of 168,400 square miles, Iraq is sparsely populated in relation to its resources. Although all but a relatively narrow belt in the north and northeast has insufficient rainfall to sustain agriculture, the country's twin river systems—the Tigris and Euphrates—can provide large amounts of water for irrigation. Much of its soil is inherently fertile and with ample water, manpower and implements, the area under cultivation might be almost tripled. In oil, Iraq possesses not only a source of foreign exchange but also a cheap source of power and raw materials essential to the development of industry, agriculture and transportation; and it may have other mineral resources susceptible of commercial exploitation. There is little doubt that the country can ultimately maintain a much larger population on a considerably higher standard of living.

As yet, however, this economic potential is in sharp contrast to the poverty prevailing in Iraq. The standard of living of the people is extremely low. Income per capita is probably at most ID 30.[1] Almost 90 percent of the population are illiterate and many are subject to debilitating diseases such as malaria, hookworm and bilharzia. Housing and sanitation are for the most part primitive. The fundamental reasons for these conditions are low output and low productivity. Most of the manpower on the land is underemployed for a large part of the year, and considerable unemployment exists in the major cities. Vast tracts of land await reclamation and irrigation before they can be used. Much of the available water is wasted owing to lack of storage and regulation of flow. In the spring disastrous floods often inundate large areas; and in the fall water is acutely short. Agricultural output is hampered not only by the inadequate and irregular supply of water, but also by the progressive salination of the soil in the irrigated areas. Agricultural techniques are primitive, the number and quality of draft animals are inadequate and there is insufficient equipment. Industry is little developed. Although perhaps as many

[1] One Iraqi dinar equals £1 or $2.80.

7: International Bank N, S-4 (1951) 1952 MH1 Iraq MH1

ANNEX A

BASIC FACTORS AND CONDITIONS

I. The Regions

131 Iraq, a country with a population of approximately 5,000,000 and an area of 168,040 square miles, forms roughly a triangular area with the base running southwest to northeast and the apex 133 terminating at the Persian Gulf. It is dominated by two great river systems—the Tigris and the Euphrates. The Euphrates rises in the mountains of Turkey, flows across the Northern Syrian plateau and then meanders through Iraq, receiving little additional water from tributaries. The Tigris also rises in Turkey, but further to the east and north. It enters Iraq in Mosul province and receives important accessions from the Greater and Lesser Zab Rivers which are fed from the snows and the rains of the mountains along the Turkish and Iranian borders and, to a lesser degree, from the Diyala River. Downstream from Ramadi on the Euphrates and Baghdad on the Tigris the two rivers form a single low-lying alluvial valley built up as a delta into the Persian Gulf. As they flow south, the rivers are virtually lost in the marshes and lakes of southern Iraq, their remaining waters uniting at Qurna to flow as the Shatt al Arab into the Persian Gulf.

311 Only a relatively narrow belt, lying north-northeast of a line roughly running south of Mosul and Kirkuk to Khanaqin near the Iranian border, has sufficient rainfall to permit the cultivation of winter crops without irrigation. In the rest of the country, agriculture depends upon the water of the two rivers for irrigation, whether by pump, by flow or by natural inundation. With the exception of the large and remote southern and northern deserts and the greater part of the rolling uplands between the Tigris and the Euphrates known as the northern Jezireh, most of this region can be cultivated once water is made available. With storage and regulation of the river waters, a great extension of the area under cultivation is possible. Without regulation, on the other hand, the

2; United Nations U-4 (no date) 1950 M1 Middle East
Iraq MH1

000 This study is concerned with the condition of transport and communications and is part of a series of studies undertaken in this special field. It deals with a group of countries in the Middle East, namely, Iraq, Iran and Afghanistan. These countries possess many and varied resources which, in many cases, have not been adequately utilized or even prospected.

I. Iraq

A. *General description of the country*

• 131 Iraq is situated in the western part of the group of countries which form the Middle Eastern group. The country lies between 29° 9′ and 37° 24′ latitude north and 38° and 48° 22′ longitude east. It is bounded on the west, along a diagonal line running north-east to south-west, by Syria; on the south-west by the Hashimite Kingdom of the Jordan; on the south by Saudi Arabia and by a small, lozenge-shaped territory, of which two sides border on Saudi Arabia and the eastern apex borders upon Kuwait, thus constituting a neutral zone, a kind of no-man's land; on the south-east, Iraq is bounded by Kuwait; its short coastline on the Persian Gulf is 50 kilometres long; the frontier with Iran, its eastern neighbour, runs south-east—north-west; Turkey is its northern neighbour.

2; United Nations U-4 (no date) 1950 M1 Middle East
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OCTOBER-DECEMBER 1950

/31 /61 The territory of Iraq, which is shaped like an irregular triangle (see Map No. 1), covers an area of 435,223 square kilometres. At the time of the 1947 census, its population was 4,800,000 inhabitants, or 11 inhabitants per square kilometre.

/62 Over 75 per cent of the population of Iraq are Arabs. They live mainly in the centre and south of the country. The next most numerous inhabitants are the Kurds (over 15 per cent of the population), who live mainly in the north and especially in the region of Mosul. There are also some Persians, Armenians, Turks, Jews and others.

/33 The country, which is mountainous in the north and north-east, spreads out into the vast Mesopotamian plateau, which inclines gradually as it nears the Persian Gulf. This plateau, which was famous in ancient times for its network of irrigation channels, is now merely an arid steppe, and in some places even a desert.

Iraq is watered by the historic twin rivers, the Tigris and the Euphrates, which are the country's vital arteries. The Euphrates (Shatt el-Furat in Arabic) is approximately 3,000 kilometres long; its basin covers 673,000 square kilometres. The Tigris (Shatt el-Dijla), which is approximately 2,150 kilometres long, is joined by several tributaries, including the Shatt el-Gharraf, the Diyala, the Great Zab and the Little Zab. Its basin covers an area of 375,000 square kilometres. The Tigris and the Eu-

3:Royal Institute of International Affairs U-4 (no date)1954 M1 Middle East
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Chapter Five

IRAQ

The Land

131 The area of Iraq within its present frontiers is approximately 175,000 square miles. It is most conveniently divided into three distinct geographical sections: the Mesopotamian plain, the Uplands, and the Folded Mountain Belt. The first of these is historically the most important for it was the plain which nursed the great civilizations of the past, and its two great rivers which nourished them.

133 *The Plain.* To the north-east the southern alluvial plain follows the foothills of the Persian mountains up from the sea, turns south-east across the old river estuaries at Samarra and Hit, and returns parallel to and west of the Euphrates. Within these limits the soil is stoneless alluvium. The two rivers flow in channels somewhat above the rest of the plain, which is consequently liable to be flooded during the high-water period in the spring when the snows melt in Kurdistan; local rain has comparatively little effect on the rivers. The Tigris rises in late March or early April, the rise at Baghdad being sometimes as much as 23 feet; the Euphrates rises two or three weeks later than the Tigris, a maximum of about 14 feet (at Faluja); both rivers are at their lowest in September–October. At no point is the plain higher than 150 feet above sea-level.

132 The annual rainfall in the plain averages about 6 inches only; this rain occurs usually between mid-November and mid-March, the wettest month being February; but it is impossible to generalize, as a complete season's rainfall may occur in a space of three weeks, the remainder of the winter being dry. [241] Cultivation in the plain depends almost entirely on irrigation, the rainfall often being insufficient to mature a winter crop.

133 The rivers, which have frequently changed their courses throughout history, unite about sixty miles above the city of Basra in a single great channel, the Shatt al-Arab. Also above Basra is the marshland of the Muntafiq and Amara *liwas*, where a distinctive group of Arabs—the 'marsh Arabs'—live on fish and the produce of their mud-banks and swampy islands, or tend their buffaloes from shallow-draft canoes.

3sRoyal Institute of International Affairs U-4 (no date)1954 M1 Middle East
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The Uplands. This region, which approximately corresponds to ancient Assyria, is undulating gravel steppe and rich ploughland, with some stone. Here, in an average year, the rainfall of 13 inches is sufficient to yield a winter crop without irrigation. In the districts of Kirkuk and Irbil, however, the rainfall is supplemented by the *kahriz* (underground water channels) system of water production, which is practised even more widely in Persia. Mosul, Irbil, and Kirkuk are respectively 703, 1,250, and 1,087 feet above sea-level. 133

Between the two rivers in this area and the south of lat. 36° N. is a wedge of uncultivable gypsum desert called al-Jezira (the Island).

The Mountain Belt. The crescent of mountain country included in the north-east frontier comprises the basins of the rivers Diala, Lesser Zab, Greater Zab, and Khabur. It is peopled by Kurds, a hardy mountain race, living an entirely different life from the Arabs of the plain and uplands. Villages are stone-built and shelved into the sides of the hills, with tall silver poplars and terraced cultivation, including vineyards and tobacco. Large areas of mountainside are covered with scrub oak; the summits provide summer pastures.

Between the Euphrates valley and the western frontiers is a large section of al-Badia, the Syrian Desert, populated only by nomad tribes of bedouin with their flocks and camels.

Climate. The climate of Iraq is extreme. In the plains the January mean temperature is 44–52°F.; in July, 86–96°F. In the mountains altitude decreases temperature in both seasons and increases the rainfall to as much as 40 inches. 132

The importance of Iraq's geographical situation has been obvious since Alexander's armies linked Europe with India twenty-two centuries ago. Through it ran not only the shortest but the easiest routes from southern Europe to the Persian Gulf and to India until the discovery of the Cape route. From the time of the Babylonian empire the trade of the Far East tended to pass through Iraq to the Levant ports on the Mediterranean. In the nineteenth century the desire to control or to prevent others controlling this route involved Great Britain, Russia, and Germany in attempts to dominate Iraq. The discovery of oil and the growth of air communications in the twentieth century have given the country a positive place in the political framework of the world and the former has provided the resources to transform it into a progressive modern nation. 131

THE PEOPLE

Population Statistics. The single official census that has been 161

5: Harrison D-4 (1912-1924) 1924 M1 Middle East
Iraq MH1

CHAPTER VI

THE ARABS OF MESOPOTAMIA

MESOPOTAMIA does not belong to Arabia geographically. It lies to the north of the peninsula and includes the territory between the mountains of Asia Minor on the north, the mountains of Persia on the east, the Syrian desert on the west and the Persian Gulf on the south. The area enclosed between these limits is enormous. These are its natural boundaries, but politically the territory included takes in certain districts that belong to Persia and Turkey as well as the kingdom of Mesopotamia. It is of interest to include Mesopotamia in any discussion of Arab life, for although the Mesopotamians are not in Arabia geographically, nor even politically, racially they are Arabs as truly as the inhabitants of Nejd or the dwellers in the valleys of Oman. Practically all of the inhabitants of Mesopotamia are Arabic speaking and Arabic in origin, the chief exceptions being the numerous Jews who have come into the country from the north and the small community of Sabaeans, or fire-worshippers, who are a remnant of the people that the Arabs found inhabiting the country. The Arab is the dominant element, and the others together would probably not amount to five per cent of the whole.

The character of the country is most easily understood if we start by saying that Mesopotamia is the enormous

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647 652 185 "We have been impressed by the ingenuity of the attempt to cover a large part of the cost of the existing centres by the voluntary contributions of the direct beneficiaries. It is clear, however, that the method of raising funds by voluntary contributions is preventing the rapid expansion of the benefits of the scheme to cover the majority of the rural population. It may therefore be desirable, as part of the land redistribution and fiscal reform of the country now in progress, to set aside a large proportion of the national revenues resulting from taxation to provide free basic services for the welfare of the fellaheen, as and when the necessary personnel and supplies become available.

"If the provision of free services is thought to compromise the principle of self-help upon which the centres have been founded, an alternative might be to maintain the existing structure of State subsidy to locally contributed funds, but at the same time to introduce the principle of compulsory membership, and individual contribution to running expenses, on a system of local option. That is to say, in each village the majority of adult inhabitants would decide whether the local contribution to the cost of a centre (which would be open to all free of cost) should be met from a graduated levy. The amount of each individual contribution would be determined on according to capacity to pay or on some other equitable basis."

OOU 42. At the meeting of the inter-ministerial committee which we attended at the close of our mission, we were invited to participate in a discussion of ways and means of ensuring that the technical advice and guidance, - which already exist in each of the departments of public service and have been created for the welfare of the community at large - are better co-ordinated and decentralized and made available more directly and more extensively to the fellaheen. A full exchange of views took place and we were happy to find that the Ministers had anticipated many of the criticisms and suggestions that had occurred to our minds.

IRAQ

I (Visited 8 - 12 January)

642 131 161 434 423 43. Iraq is a constitutional monarchy, with territory covering 168,400 square miles and a population of approximately 5,000,000. The country has great economic potentialities which until recently have not been adequately exploited. Income per capita does not yet exceed 30 Iraqi dinars (approximately US$84). In the past the predominance of the tribal system has impeded a redistribution of lands now recognized as necessary. The abundance of government-owned lands which will become cultivable under modern methods and extended irrigation is expected to facilitate the distribution of land on the basis of small property ownership without intermediary of tribal chiefs.

483 185 Iraq has large possibilities of land reclamation: i.e. the country can feed a larger population than it actually has, and there is in the near future no danger of over-population, even assuming that the death rate is lowered by various measures.

657 185 44. We were assured by one Minister with whom we had the privilege of discussing the standard of living of so many of the poorer sections of the community that the evils from which the country was suffering were well known, and that a partial explanation of many of the difficulties hitherto experienced in effecting necessary improvements was to be found in a lack of co-ordination between existing health and education

63:Simmons et al G-5 (1941-1951) 1954
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Iraq

GEOGRAPHY AND CLIMATE

Iraq is a constitutional monarchy which has been an independent sovereign state since the termination, in 1932, of the mandate awarded Great Britain by the League of Nations. Historically, it is identified with Mesopotamia, the "land between the rivers" and the home of one of the oldest civilizations known to man. Modern Iraq has an area of about 170,000 square miles, encompassing the valleys of the Tigris and the Euphrates rivers, a fringe of highlands in the north and an expanse of desert in the southwest. It extends from the Persian Gulf and Arabia in the south to Turkey in the north, and from Iran in the east to Syria and Jordan in the west. The country is conveniently divided into four geographic regions—the alluvial plains of the rivers, the mountain ranges backing the northern and the northeastern frontiers, the intervening uplands and the desert.

Rising in the mountains of eastern Anatolia, the Tigris River flows for 770 miles through Iraq, and in its northern course receives several tributaries, the most important in Iraqi territory being the Great Zab, the Little Zab and the Diyala. The Euphrates River also takes its source in Anatolia but meanders across central Syria and, subsequently, for 750 miles in Iraq before converging with the Tigris at Al Qurnah. The Shatt al Arab, formed by the union of the two rivers, flows for about 100 miles to the Persian Gulf, and for part of its length marks the boundary with Iran. The lower Euphrates and Tigris valleys form a great deltaic plain which reaches back from the Gulf to a zone north of Baghdad. It is

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132 year in the plains of the delta region and 12 to 16 inches in the upland districts, while in some sections of the mountains it increases to around 50 inches. The summer temperatures are uniformly high and may reach 110° to 125° F. in the central and the southern provinces. The daily fluctuations are slight in the Gulf region, but they become more pronounced toward the interior. During the winter months snows are rare outside the highland districts, but frosts are occasionally encountered as far south as Basra. In January, the coldest month, the mean maximum temperature averages 60° to 65° F. at Basra, 58° to 61° F. at Baghdad and 50° to 55° F. at Mosul; the mean minimum temperature, 38° to 42° F., 44° to 47° F. and 34° to 36° F., respectively. The mean maximum temperatures approximate 104° to 110° F. in all 3 localities in July, while the mean minimum temperatures range from 76° to 82° F. in Basra to 72° to 75° F. in Mosul. In midsummer the mean daily relative humidity rarely rises above 25 to 35 per cent on the plains, although it is often excessive in the Gulf area. Northwest winds, known locally as the *shamal*, blow irregularly throughout the year. They are especially strong and desiccating during the summer months, and, in the south, are usually laden with dust and sand.

POPULATION AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC CONDITIONS

Population

161 The population, according to the official census for 1947, was estimated at 4,799,500, including an unknown number of Bedouin, roughly calculated at about 250,000. The majority of the inhabitants are of mixed Arabic stock, representing a relatively homogeneous blend of ancient Semitic and Indo-European strains which has evolved over centuries of successive conquests. About 95 per cent of the people are Moslems; slightly over one half are Shiites; and most of the remainder are Sunnites. The Kurds, who

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[131] inhabit the mountainous districts near the 162 northeastern frontiers, constitute the largest 795 Moslem minority group. Racially and linguistically distinct, they make up about 15 to 20 per cent of the population. Other non-Arabic Moslem communities include about 50,000 each of Turkomans and Iranians, the majority of whom are also found in the northern provinces. Most of the Kurds and the Turkomans are Sunnites, but some adhere to minor heterodox sects; the Iranians are Shiites.

From 150,000 to 200,000 native Christians reside in Iraq. The Chaldeans, a sect which observes early Nestorian rites but owes allegiance to the Vatican, comprise the most numerous group. Other communities include some 30,000 Assyrians (Nestorians), refugees from Asia Minor in 1918, and smaller contingents belonging to the Armenian Orthodox, the Greek Orthodox, the Jacobite (Syrian Orthodox) and the Syrian 543 Catholic churches. Most of the Christian peoples live together in more or less separate ethnic and religious groups: about 70 per cent are settled in the northern provinces of Kirkuk, Mosul and Erbil, and a large proportion of the remainder in the cities of Baghdad and Basra. Prominent among other indigenous sects are the Yezidis, or so-called "devil-worshipers," about 30,000 of whom dwell in the districts near the Syrian border. A few thousand Sabians, famous as silver craftsmen, also live in Baghdad, Amarah and Basra.

191 Arabic is spoken by over three quarters of the population. Kurdish, Syriac and Turki, however, are recognized as official languages in limited areas in the north, while English is extensively used in the 593 larger cities. Although the Iraqi are pre- 162 dominantly Arabs, marked gradations in social structure are represented by the nomadic Bedouin tribes of the deserts, the "marsh Arabs" or primitive tribesmen of the Amarah and Hammar lakes region of the southern delta, the rural peasants and the townspeople. Up to 1950, the population included about 200,000 Jews, primarily of

63:Simmons et al G-5 (1941-1951) 1954
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SUMMARY

Iraq encompasses the valleys of the Tigris and the Euphrates rivers, and is associated historically with Mesopotamia, the home of one of the oldest civilizations on record. It has been an independent sovereign state since 1932. The population, which was estimated at 4,799,500 in 1947, is 95 per cent Moslem and predominantly Arab. Extensive petroleum resources and date cultivation contribute to the wealth of the country, which is still relatively underdeveloped in other respects. The public health activities of the Iraqi government are centralized in the Ministry of Health, with headquarters in Baghdad. The Ministry is responsible for the maintenance of preventive and curative services, which are carried out in the provinces through subordinate provincial organizations. Municipal departments exist in Baghdad and the principal cities, but in other areas the enforcement of sanitary regulations devolves upon the government officers. In 1950, there were 82 civilian hospitals in the country, with an aggregate capacity of 4,901 beds, or slightly more than 1 bed per 1,000 population. Almost one half of the total beds were located in the Baghdad area. Approximately 82 per cent of the hospitals are supported by the government. Also in 1950, 433 dispensaries were functioning in various parts of the provinces, 403 under the jurisdiction of the government health authorities.

The water supplies in the towns and the villages of the alluvial plain are derived from rivers, canals, lakes and wells; in the northern highlands, from streams, springs and wells. All the urban supplies are obtained from rivers, except in Erbil and Sulaimaniya, where spring sources are utilized. The water supplies of the larger cities are treated, but those in the rural areas are unprotected and often polluted. There are no sewerage systems. In the cities, cesspits and septic tanks are employed for the disposal of sewage; in the rural villages, the means are more primitive. The dietary

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64: Shwadran S-4 (no date) 1955 M1 Middle East
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Chapter X

OIL AND DEVELOPMENT OF IRAQ

IRAQ MAY SERVE as an excellent study of the relation between oil production and the social and economic patterns of an underdeveloped country. Production of oil began almost simultaneously with the emergence of the independent state. Though Iraq's social and economic traditions were set when it was part of the Ottoman Empire and seriously bedeviled the growth and development of the new kingdom, the special Iraqi national patterns were being molded during the very period the oil was flowing in ever increasing quantity through pipelines hundreds of miles long to world markets. Moreover, Iraq had the benefit of Western guidance, the British administration, at first, and advice afterwards; yet during the first twenty-five years of oil production it would seem that the country did not progress as spectacularly as the oil figures (from 45,000 tons in 1927, to some 28,000,000 tons in 1953). The basic obstacles to the rapid social and economic development of the people and the transformation of the country could apparently not be overcome by the mere availability of oil, some technical knowledge, and royalties from the oil industry.

Before drawing any conclusions, we should examine some fundamental facts about the country, the people, and the factors which operated in Iraq to create the conditions prevailing there.

Land and People

The area of Iraq is about 175,000 square miles, and it has a population of approximately 5,000,000 people.[1] Because of the lack of sufficiently reliable data, as well as the cultivation

[1] Tabulations of the returns of the first census, taken on Oct. 19, 1947, showed a population of 4,799,500. U. S. Dept. of Commerce, *International Reference Service*, Dec. 1948, 2.